

Hydrilla verticillata - Hydrilla

Why releasing pets and aquaria just doesn't make sense



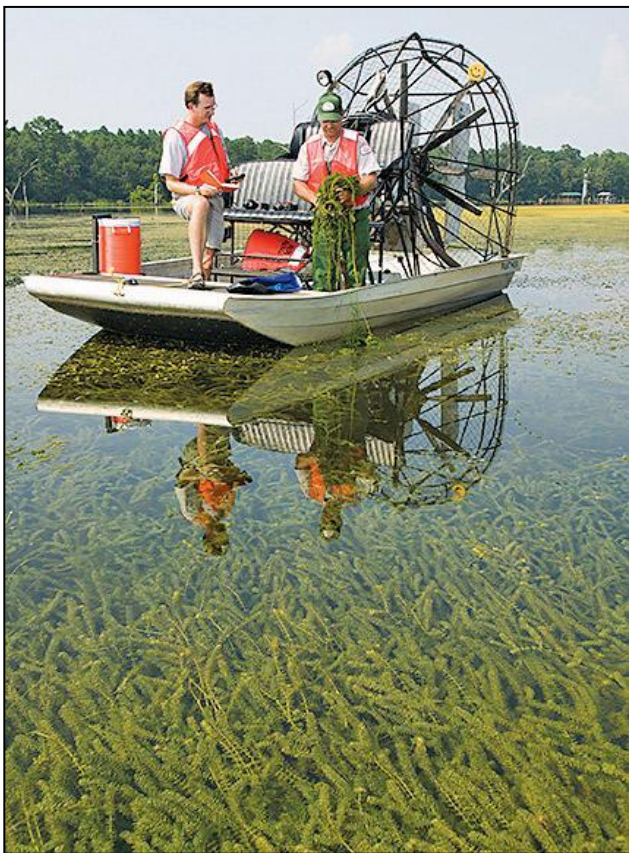
Hydrilla verticillata

Image: Photo by Graves Lovell
Bugwood.org

Hydrilla verticillata, also known as “the perfect aquatic weed,” can elongate up to one inch per day, forming choking mats that make recreational use difficult if not impossible. It was introduced to the SE United States as a decorative aquarium plant, but after it was discarded into canals it began to spread with a vengeance. It has invaded 28 states and costs the nation millions in management dollars annually.

To learn more about Hydrilla:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=6>



USDA photo

Mike Netherland (left) and Donald Morgan of the Army Corps of Engineers collect herbicide-resistant hydrilla from Lake Seminole in northern Florida.



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Image: Photo by Wilfredo Robles
Bugwood.org